## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES January 10, 2014

The meeting convened at 7:30 a.m., at Beaver Meadow Golf Course, 1 Beaver Meadow Road, Concord, NH.

PRESENT: Councilor Allen Bennett, Tim Bernier, Robert Carey, Christopher Carley, Byron Champlin,

Councilor Mark Coen, Brad Hosmer, Councilor Jan McClure, Bill Norton, and Claudia Walker

ABSENT: Walter Chapin, Stephen Heavener, John Hoyt, Councilor Keith Nyhan, and Councilor Dan St.

Hilaire

STAFF: Carlos P. Baía, Deputy City Manager – Development

Donna Muir, Administrative Assistant

## 1. Urban Growth Boundary

Mr. Carley stated that at the last meeting it was suggested that EDAC look at the urban growth boundary to see whether it would be feasible to adjust the borders and what impact, if any, the urban growth boundary has on the economic development of the City. Mr. Carley suggested that a subcommittee of EDAC could be formed to look into this.

Jan McClure noted that the urban growth boundary discourages sprawl. Other EDAC members expressed the need for more flexibility to attract large manufacturers and house their employees preferably within Concord and not in outlying towns. Councilor McClure stated that she heard Steve Norton, the Executive Director for the NH Center for Public Policy Studies, speak about the economic forecast for the I-93 corridor. She suggested that EDAC invite him to talk about Concord specifically.

The members decided that the issue was larger than the urban growth boundary, such as what type of businesses does the City want to attract and is developing the upper stories on Main Street still a viable option. It was suggested that EDAC look at what would be desirable for Concord and then set goals to accomplish what would be practical, using best practices.

Mr. Carley suggested that EDAC move forward and invite Steve Norton to talk with EDAC. He also asked that Mr. Baía provide the Council with information on the leading employers in Concord.

## 2. <u>Introduction of new member</u>

Mr. Carley introduced Bob Carey, an attorney with Orr & Reno, as a representative of the Chamber's Creative Concord initiative.

## 3. Concord's Front Door

Mr. Carley showed a power point presentation on Concord's Front Door, which was a compilation of the results of a charette held in November 2013. Mr. Carley stated that the goal of the charette was to brainstorm ideas for creating a gateway drawing and directing interstate traffic into the downtown area.

EDAC Meeting Minutes January 10, 2014 Page 2 of 2

Some of the comments from EDAC members included that the entrances should emphasize historic Concord; and that it would be beneficial to include some state agencies in the discussions, such as the Department of Resources and Economic Development, tourism agencies, and the Governor's office.

Mr. Carley stated that the next step is to reconvene the committee.

Mr. Carley thanked Councilor Coen for hosting the EDAC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Muir